

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An indicator system for visually indicating a pressure of blood inside a blood vessel, comprising:

    a body comprising a passage passing through the body, the body further comprising a duct extending in the body and having a hemostatically sealed blood accommodating chamber;

    an insertion tube comprising a distal end portion adapted to be positioned inside the blood vessel and comprising a fluid communication pathway between an uncovered liquid inlet opening near a distal end of the insertion tube and the duct, wherein the inlet opening is formed on an outer surface of the insertion tube, the insertion tube further comprising an opening at the extreme end of the distal end portion;

    a window comprising an at least semi-transparent section configured to enable visual observation of blood entering into the duct via the inlet opening when the inlet opening is located inside the blood vessel; and

    an elongated member;

wherein the fluid communication pathway is formed between the insertion tube and the elongated member;

    and wherein the passage and the fluid communication pathway are adapted to permit the elongated member to be threaded in a substantially straight path there through between a distal end of the insertion tube and a proximal end of the body and wherein an outer dimension of the elongated member is substantially equal to an inner dimension of the insertion tube at the distal end of the insertion tube and said outer dimension and said inner dimension are configured such that flow of blood between said outer dimension and said inner dimension is prevented when the elongated member is inserted into the insertion tube.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the duct opens into the chamber via an aperture having a spill-over edge, the aperture being located at a level above a

bottom surface of the blood accommodating chamber, whereby return flow of blood back into the duct is prevented.

4. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the blood accommodating chamber is located in the body, and wherein the body further comprises the insertion tube extending distally of the body.

5. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 4, wherein the inlet opening is located on a side of the insertion tube.

6. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the duct extends vertically to an aperture opening into the blood accommodating chamber.

7. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the duct extends horizontally above the blood accommodating chamber to an aperture opening into the blood accommodating chamber.

8. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the duct exhibits a varying cross-section over its length.

9. (Previously Presented) An indicator device for visually indicating a pressure of blood inside a blood vessel, comprising:

    a body, the body comprising

        a duct extending in the body and having a hemostatically sealed blood accommodating chamber at a proximal end;

        a distal end portion adapted to be positioned inside the blood vessel and comprising a liquid inlet opening in fluid communication with the duct; and

        a window comprising an at least semi-transparent section configured to enable visual observation of blood entering into the duct via the inlet opening when the inlet opening is located inside the blood vessel;

    wherein the duct exhibits a varying cross-section over its length;

    wherein the duct becomes narrower in the direction towards the blood accommodating chamber.

10. (Currently Amended) An indicator system for visually indicating a pressure of blood inside a blood vessel, comprising:

a body comprising a passage passing through the body, the body further comprising a duct extending in the body and having a hemostatically sealed blood accommodating chamber;

an insertion tube comprising a distal end portion adapted to be positioned inside the blood vessel and comprising a fluid communication pathway between an uncovered liquid inlet opening near a distal end of the insertion tube and the duct, further comprising an opening at an extreme end of the distal end portion of the insertion tube, wherein the inlet opening is formed on an outer surface of the insertion tube; and

a window comprising an at least semi-transparent section configured to enable visual observation of blood entering into the duct via the inlet opening when the inlet opening is located inside the blood vessel; and

an elongated member;

wherein the fluid communication pathway is formed between the insertion tube and the elongated member;

and wherein the passage and the fluid communication pathway are adapted to permit the elongated member to be threaded in a substantially straight path there through between a distal end of the insertion tube and a proximal end of the body such that the elongated member projects distally past the extreme end of the distal end portion and wherein an outer dimension of the elongated member is substantially equal to an inner dimension of the insertion tube at the distal end of the insertion tube and said outer dimension and said inner dimension are configured such that flow of blood between said outer dimension and said inner dimension is prevented when the elongated member is inserted into the insertion tube.

11. (Previously Presented) An indicator device for visually indicating a pressure of blood inside a blood vessel, comprising:

a body comprising a passage passing through the body, the body further comprising a duct extending in the body and having a hemostatically sealed blood accommodating chamber;

an insertion tube comprising a distal end portion adapted to be positioned inside the blood vessel and comprising a fluid communication pathway between a liquid inlet opening near a distal end of the insertion tube and the duct; and

a window comprising an at least semi-transparent section configured to enable visual observation of blood entering into the duct via the inlet opening when the inlet opening is located inside the blood vessel;

and wherein the passage and the fluid communication pathway are adapted to permit a member to be threaded in a substantially straight path there through between a distal end and a proximal end of the indicator device;

wherein the duct first becomes progressively narrower and then becomes progressively wider.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) An indicator system for visually indicating a pressure of blood inside a blood vessel, comprising:

a body comprising a passage passing through the body, the body further comprising a duct extending in the body and having a hemostatically sealed blood accommodating chamber;

an insertion tube comprising a distal end portion adapted to be positioned inside the blood vessel and comprising a fluid communication pathway between an uncovered liquid inlet opening near a distal end of the insertion tube and the duct, wherein the inlet opening is formed on an outer surface of the insertion tube, the insertion tube further comprising an opening at the extreme end of the distal end portion; and

a window comprising an at least semi-transparent section configured to enable visual observation of blood entering into the duct via the inlet opening when the inlet opening is located inside the blood vessel; and

an elongated member;

wherein the fluid communication pathway is formed between the insertion tube and the elongated member;

and wherein the passage and the fluid communication pathway are adapted to permit the elongated member to be threaded in a substantially straight path there through between a distal end of the insertion tube and a proximal end of the body such that the elongated member projects distally past the extreme end of the distal end portion and wherein an outer dimension of the elongated member is substantially equal to an inner dimension of the insertion tube at the distal end of the insertion tube and said outer dimension and said inner dimension are configured such that flow of blood between said outer dimension and said inner dimension is prevented when the elongated member is inserted into the insertion tube.

15. (Previously Presented) An indicator device for visually indicating a pressure of blood inside a blood vessel, comprising:

- a body, the body comprising

- a duct extending in the body and having a blood accommodating chamber at a hemostatically sealed proximal end;

- a distal end portion adapted to be positioned inside the blood vessel and comprising a liquid inlet opening in fluid communication with the duct; and

- a window comprising an at least semi-transparent section configured to enable visual observation of blood entering into the duct via the inlet opening when the inlet opening is located inside the blood vessel;

- wherein the duct opens into the chamber via an aperture having a spill-over edge, the aperture being located at a level above a bottom surface of the blood accommodating chamber, whereby return flow of blood back into the duct is prevented;

- wherein the blood accommodating chamber and the duct are dimensioned such that a counter-pressure therein when blood enters will cause a blood meniscus at a lowest possible systolic pressure to be located within the window;

- wherein the blood accommodating chamber and the duct are dimensioned such that a counter-pressure therein when blood enters will cause a blood meniscus at the lowest possible systolic pressure to be located approximately at the spill-over edge.

16. (Previously Presented) An indicator system for visually indicating a pressure of blood inside a blood vessel, comprising:

a body comprising a passage passing through the body, the body further comprising a duct extending in the body and having a hemostatically sealed blood accommodating chamber;

an insertion tube comprising a distal end portion adapted to be positioned inside the blood vessel and comprising a fluid communication pathway between an uncovered liquid inlet opening near a distal end of the insertion tube and the duct, the insertion tube further comprising an opening at the extreme end of the distal end portion; and

a window comprising an at least semi-transparent section configured to enable visual observation of blood entering into the duct via the inlet opening when the inlet opening is located inside the blood vessel; and

an elongated member;

and wherein the passage and the fluid communication pathway are adapted to permit the elongated member to be threaded in a substantially straight path there through between a distal end of the insertion tube and a proximal end of the body such that the elongated member projects distally past the extreme end of the distal end portion,

wherein the blood accommodating chamber and the duct are dimensioned such that a counter-pressure therein when blood enters will cause a blood meniscus at a lowest possible systolic pressure to be located within the window.

Claims 17-19 (Canceled).

20. (Currently Amended) A method for visually indicating a pressure of blood inside a blood vessel, comprising:

(1) providing an indicator system comprising

a body, the body comprising a passage passing through the body and a duct extending in the body and having a blood accommodating chamber,

an insertion tube comprising a distal end portion adapted to be positioned inside the blood vessel and comprising a fluid communication pathway between a liquid inlet opening near a distal end of the insertion tube and the duct, wherein the inlet opening is formed on an

outer surface of the insertion tube, the insertion tube further comprising an opening at the extreme end of the distal end portion,

a window in the form of an at least semi-transparent section configured to enable visual observation of blood entering into the duct via the inlet opening when the inlet opening is located inside the blood vessel, and

an elongated member,

wherein the fluid communication pathway is formed between the insertion tube and the elongated member;

and wherein the passage and the fluid communication pathway are adapted to permit the elongated member to be threaded in a substantially straight path there through between a proximal end of the body and a distal end of the insertion tube to plug the opening at the extreme end of the distal end portion;

(2) positioning said distal end portion inside the blood vessel; and

(3) indicating said pressure.

21. (Currently Amended) An indicator system for visually indicating a pressure of blood inside a blood vessel, comprising:

a body comprising a passage passing through the body, the body further comprising a duct extending in the body and having a hemostatically sealed blood accommodating chamber;

an insertion tube comprising a distal end portion adapted to be positioned inside the blood vessel and comprising a fluid communication pathway between an uncovered liquid inlet opening near a distal end of the insertion tube and the duct, wherein the inlet opening is formed on an outer surface of the insertion tube, the insertion tube further comprising an opening at the extreme end of the distal end portion;

a window comprising an at least semi-transparent section configured to enable visual observation of blood entering into the duct via the inlet opening when the inlet opening is located inside the blood vessel; and

an elongated member;

wherein the fluid communication pathway is formed between the insertion tube and the elongated member;

and wherein the passage and the fluid communication pathway are adapted to permit the elongated member to be threaded in a substantially straight path there through between a distal end of the insertion tube and a proximal end of the body and wherein an outer dimension of the elongated member is substantially equal to an inner dimension of the insertion tube at the distal end of the insertion tube and said outer dimension and said inner dimension are configured such that flow of blood between said outer dimension and said inner dimension is prevented when the elongated member is inserted into the insertion tube; wherein the elongated member comprises a dilator.

22. (Currently Amended) An indicator system for visually indicating a pressure of blood inside a blood vessel, comprising:

a body comprising a passage passing through the body, the body further comprising a duct extending in the body and having a hemostatically sealed blood accommodating chamber;

an insertion tube comprising a distal end portion adapted to be positioned inside the blood vessel and comprising a fluid communication pathway between an uncovered liquid inlet opening near a distal end of the insertion tube and the duct, wherein the inlet opening is formed on an outer surface of the insertion tube, the insertion tube further comprising an opening at the extreme end of the distal end portion;

a window comprising an at least semi-transparent section configured to enable visual observation of blood entering into the duct via the inlet opening when the inlet opening is located inside the blood vessel; and

an elongated member;

wherein the fluid communication pathway is formed between the insertion tube and the elongated member;

and wherein the passage and the fluid communication pathway are adapted to permit the elongated member to be threaded in a substantially straight path there through between a distal end of the insertion tube and a proximal end of the body;

wherein the elongated member comprises a guide rod and wherein an outer dimension of the guide rod is substantially equal to an inner dimension of the insertion tube at the distal end of the insertion tube and said outer dimension and said inner dimension are configured



such that flow of blood between said outer dimension and said inner dimension is prevented when the guide rod is inserted into the insertion tube.

23. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the elongated member comprises a guide wire.

24. (New) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the indicator system is configured such that blood flows from a region outside of the insertion tube, through the inlet opening, and into an interior of the insertion tube.

25. (New) The system as claimed in claim 24, wherein the indicator system is configured such that blood flows from a region outside of the insertion tube, through the opening at the extreme end of the distal end portion of the insertion tube, and into an interior of the insertion tube when the opening at the extreme end of the distal end portion of the insertion tube is not blocked.

26. (New) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the elongated member is of a one-piece, solid construction.

27. (New) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the indicator system is configured such that a portion of the outer surface of the insertion tube that forms the inlet opening is exposed to the blood vessel when the distal end portion of the insertion tube is positioned inside the blood vessel.